



**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 10/049,162  
Applicant : HIRASHIMA et al.  
Filed: : February 8, 2002  
TC/A.U. : 3728  
Examiner : LUONG, Shian

Confirmation No.: 7831

Docket No. : 7388/72600  
Customer No. : 42798

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Window  
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Alexandria, VA 22314

March 29, 2006

**AMENDMENT**

Sir:

In conjunction with the Request for Continued Examination submitted herewith, and in response to the Office Action of November 29, 2005, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

(1) Amendments to the claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

(2) Remarks/arguments begin on page 9 of this paper.